

CASUALTIES OF WAR

GHOST RIDER

MARVEL
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WORLD WAR
HULK
05.2007



DIRECT EDITION



RATED T+

WAY
TEXEIRA
SALTARES
BROWN

GHOST RIDER



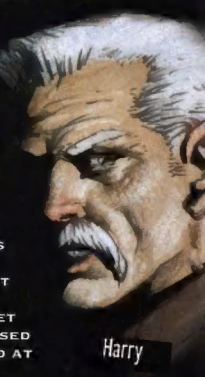
MOTORCYCLE STUNTMAN JOHNNY BLAZE HAS ALWAYS HAD HIS HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE... AND MADE ALL THE WRONG DECISIONS. A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL CURSED HIM INTO BECOMING THE GHOST RIDER, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WHO HUNTS DOWN THE GUILTY AND DISPENSES BLOODY RETRIBUTION.

TRAPPED IN HELL AFTER BEING MANIPULATED BY ANGELS AND DEMONS ALIKE, JOHNNY MADE A BARGAIN TO ESCAPE AND INADVERTENTLY FREED LUCIFER, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS. DURING THE TRIP TO THE MORTAL COIL, JOHNNY REMAINED WHOLE, WHILE LUCIFER'S FORM WAS SHATTERED INTO 666 PIECES, EACH OF WHICH WENT ON TO POSSESS A RECENTLY DECEASED CORPSE.

IT HAS BEEN THE GHOST RIDER'S MISSION TO HUNT DOWN AND DESTROY EVERY LAST AVATAR OF LUCIFER, AND THAT QUEST BROUGHT HIM TO SLEEPY HOLLOW, ILLINOIS, WHERE THE FLAME-HEADED SUPER-VILLAIN JACK O'LANTERN HAD BEEN POSSESSED BY LUCIFER, EMBARKING ON A TOWN-WIDE KILLING SPREE.



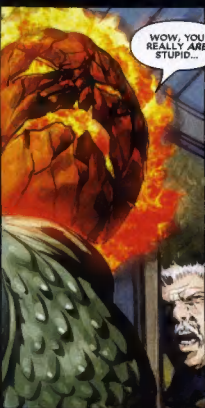
WHILE PURSUING JACK O'LANTERN, GHOST RIDER WAS CAPTURED BY SHERIFF HARRY O'CONNOR, WHO WAS CONVINCED THAT GHOST RIDER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS. GHOST RIDER CONVINCED O'CONNOR THAT HE WASN'T THE MURDERER, AND THE TWO SET ABOUT PREPARING A TRAP FOR THE POSSESSED JACK O'LANTERN AND THE ARMY OF UNDEAD AT HIS COMMAND.



Harry

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WOW, YOU
REALLY ARE
STUPID...





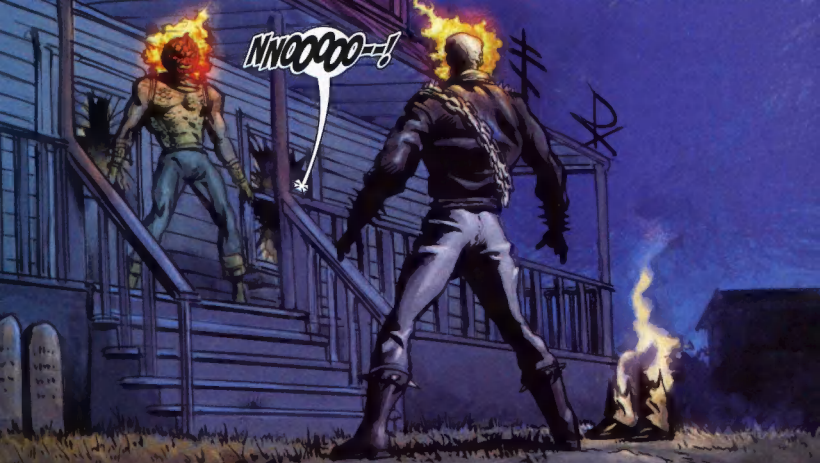
YOU...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE...

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
HARD IT WAS FOR
ME TO RAISE AN
ENTIRE ZOMBIE
ARMY?



DO
YOU EVEN
CARE?!





SOUNDS
LIKE THE SHERIFF'S
BEEN REUNITED
WITH HIS BELOVED,
LONG-LOST
GODSON.

SO GLAD
I COULD
MAKE THAT
HAPPEN.



HARRY--!



I'M STANDING
RIGHT HERE--
AND YOU...YOU'RE
CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO
THAT GUY?

YOU?!



I AM
REALLY
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU.



SHUT.



UP.



CH-CH-
CHANK!

"SHUT
UP"?

FRRROOOOM!!!



THAT
DOESN'T SOUND
VERY "GHOST
RIDER."



I THINK
YOU SHOULD
USE THIS TIME
APART TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
TO YOU!

TO
GET YOUR
PRIORITIES
STRAIGHT!



DO YOU
ACTUALLY
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING?



SILENCE,
HUMAN.



I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT I'M
DOING.

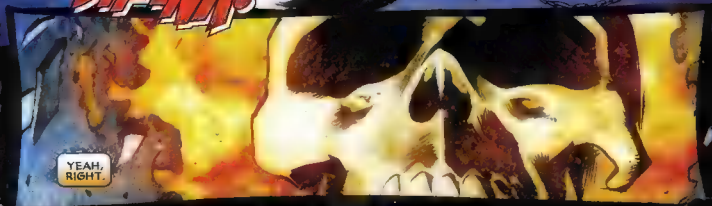


CHINK!

GGRRHH--

--HRRRAAAAAHHH!





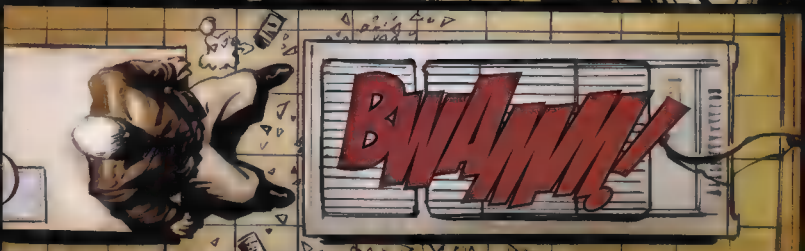


NEVER
QUESTION
MY SKILLS.

**FRA-
BOOM!**









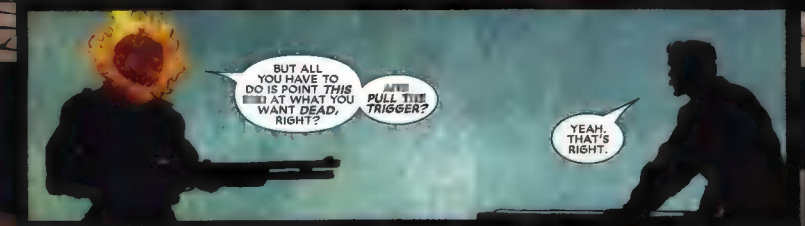
THUMP!



THIS MAY SURPRISE YOU...



...BUT I'VE NEVER FIRED A GUN.



BUT ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS POINT THIS AT WHAT YOU WANT DEAD, RIGHT?

AND PULL THE TRIGGER?

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

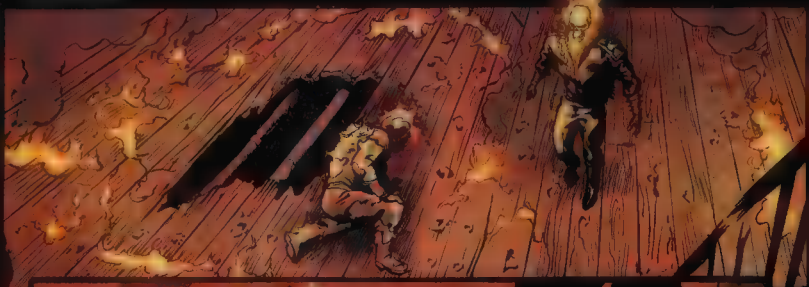


BUT YOU GOTTA PUT BULLETS IN IT, FIRST.









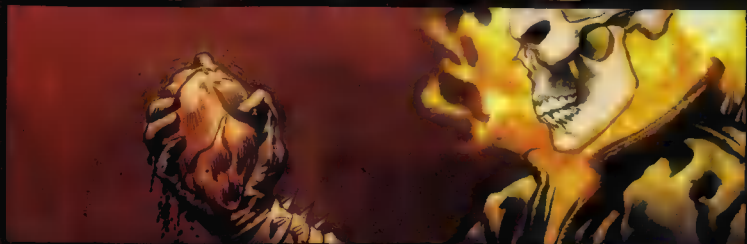
WHAT
A...

WHAT A
DRAG...



I REALLY
LIKED THIS
OUTFIT--

SHUNK!!









GHOST WRITERS

I don't know about you guys and gals, but I'm gonna miss ol' Jack O'Lantern. He may have been one tremendous pain in the bike seat, but anyone with a pumpkin for a head is okay in my book, especially if said squash fruit is on fire. So raise a chain, fellow Riders. He was a worthy opponent to the Ghost Rider, even if he had to be possessed by Lucifer to put up a good fight.

Now that that's over, I'll pass out the pumpkin pie and we can get started with this month's best letters.

Dear Ghost Writers,

Has there ever been a better time to be a Ghost Rider fan? Not only is the movie being released in just a couple of weeks, but I walked into my local shop this evening and saw a row of half a dozen different GR titles for me to buy. While MYTHOS and TRAIL OF TEARS are both good, the one that made me smile most was the latest issue of the regular series. This book is just plain fun! I was a big fan of the Danny Ketch series as a teenager, particularly Mackie and Velez's runs with Larocca, but I'm ten years older now and enjoying this new series ten times as much. I can't help but get a big stupid grin on my face each and every issue.

The writing by Way has a nice twisted sense of humor, the art is Saltares & Tex at their very best, the action is freewheeling and over the top, the villains are truly evil and get all the best lines, and Johnny Blaze is as dumb as a box of hair. Everything a Ghost Rider series should be!

Just to focus on the art for a second, I wasn't sure if I liked Richard Corben's guest-run... for about two pages, at which point I decided I loved it. It had a greasy '70's underground comics feel to it that fit in perfectly with our favorite demonic biker. So long as you keep Mark & Javier as regular artists (and we all know they're THE definitive GR artists), I'm all in favor of well-chosen guest artists like this for the occasional issue.

There's one part of this book that I haven't mentioned yet, and it's the reason I wrote this letter: the letters page itself! I can't remember the last time I saw a book that took full advantage of what a letters page should be instead of just tacking on a few random messages or ignoring them altogether. (Actually, I can. It was PREACHER, another supernatural western. Hmm...) Less than a year in, and there's a sense of a fan community for this book that many bigger series will just never have.

Yeah, this hasn't exactly been a balanced or objective letter but dammit! I'm having fun reading GHOST RIDER every month!

Eóin C.
Ireland

Thanks for the nice letter, Eóin. We've been working our hardest to make this a solid book, and I've been especially proud to host these letters pages for all you Riders out there. But I swear, enough of the adulation! I'm working up a fierce blush, and when you have skin as pale as mine, that isn't a pretty sight.

Dear Keepers of the Medallion,

After 15 years of debating whether or not any words of mine were worthy enough to write down and send to a Marvel publication, I am finally casting my voice into the clamor!

I must start by saying something we all know: Ghost Rider is the greatest comic book character ever. In the ongoing series, Way is penning one of the sickest storylines: a Rider-only tale with witty dialogue and awesome new powers. The darkest and most realistic GR yet, with the irreplaceable Tex on the inks.

And although I was nervous about his film, it turns out that the stills didn't do ol' Flamehead justice; in live action he looked sick, the movie was great, and I was happier than Stan Lee. As a hardcore fan, there were many alterations I had to ignore, but overall, it was a huge relief.

The sequel will be even better, now that the legend of ghost riding has been taught. As the tale unravels, I hope the Rider confronts greater forces, so that he can retract his chain into a hell-fire stake—showcasing Blade-like special effects—or break his chain links into ninja stars to throw at his enemies, or even breathe some hellfire damnation at his foes!

Now, imagine a "Hearts of Darkness" movie. A day like every other: full of rape and robbery and murder that permeates the air like a fog. A darker, purer evil emerges from the dusty ground, seeping into Blackheart's empty shell. Tendrils oozing, he slowly morphs into his true form. Craving a new S.O.V. to overthrow his dad, he offers one lonely, grieving soul his family in exchange for loyalty. Meanwhile, Logan cruises the secluded roads of the South, only to be thrown from his bike. Teeth glare in the moonlight, dripping with a thick vermillion as Adamantium protrudes skin. After a bloody slashfest with the Hunter in Darkness, Logan picks up the scent of rotting flesh, which leads him to Christ's Crown, the derivation of evil to come, while The Rider, more determined than ever, probes every inch of the country, vanquishing all evils. Something grabs his attention. Darkness. Endless darkness spilling through an orgy of silence, only to shatter with the screams of the innocent. Ghost Rider battles the freak known as Blackout with ease, then continues down the road of vengeance. By the end of the movie, Wovie would have lit his cigar with Ghostie's melon.

Jeffrey Aurelio
Long Island, NY

Well, Jeffrey, I don't understand half of what you're saying here, but what I can piece together sounds pretty righteous. While it's not very likely we'll see a Wolverine/Ghost Rider movie, it would certainly be the greatest thing since flame met skull.

Dear Ghost Writers,

I've been a GR addict for seventeen years; I own almost all the comics and crossovers, the action figures, over a dozen t-shirts, and even a few trinkets off Ebay from as far away as Australia. I was in the Marine Corps when one of the guys had a stack of comics. He let me read them and among them was GR#5. I read it over and over again, and he let me have it, and so began my long quest for everything Ghost Rider.

I've been through the good, the bad, and the ugly, and it was worth every second. I'm loving

the new run of GR and the fact that you also put closure to the second series. To have Saltares and Teixeira doing GR again is like old friends reuniting after a long absence. Meanwhile, Ennis and Crain brought things to a higher level and literally set my head on fire.

As for the movie, I really enjoyed it. I think we have all waited so long, and it was worth it. To do a movie that encompasses all the Ghost Riders was a work of genius, and it paid homage to GR fans both old and new.

I have included a few pictures of me in my Ghost Rider outfit, which I wore to the opening day of the movie. And if you don't mind, there are some people I'd like to thank for making this happen: Future Shock, Kerasotes Theatres, Game Stop, Comic Carnival, and Landes Costumes (for the finishing touches) and the Steel Pony (for the use of the motorcycle and the babes). Every biker knows you can't have a Rider without a babe.

And most of all, I'd like to thank everyone who has ever touched GR at Marvel.

Corey Loos
Indianapolis, IN



Congrats, Corey! You've earned this month's Flaming Tip of the Skull! That is one helluva costume and the bike and babe aren't bad either! Keep riding, Corey, and we'll be honored to have you reading.

Next month, the Incredible Hulk returns to Earth for a little vengeance of his own. But someone's in between him and his goal. Who'd be so stupid? Why, our boy Johnny, of course! It ain't gonna be pretty, Flameheads, but it's sure gonna be a helluva lot of fun!

--Michael

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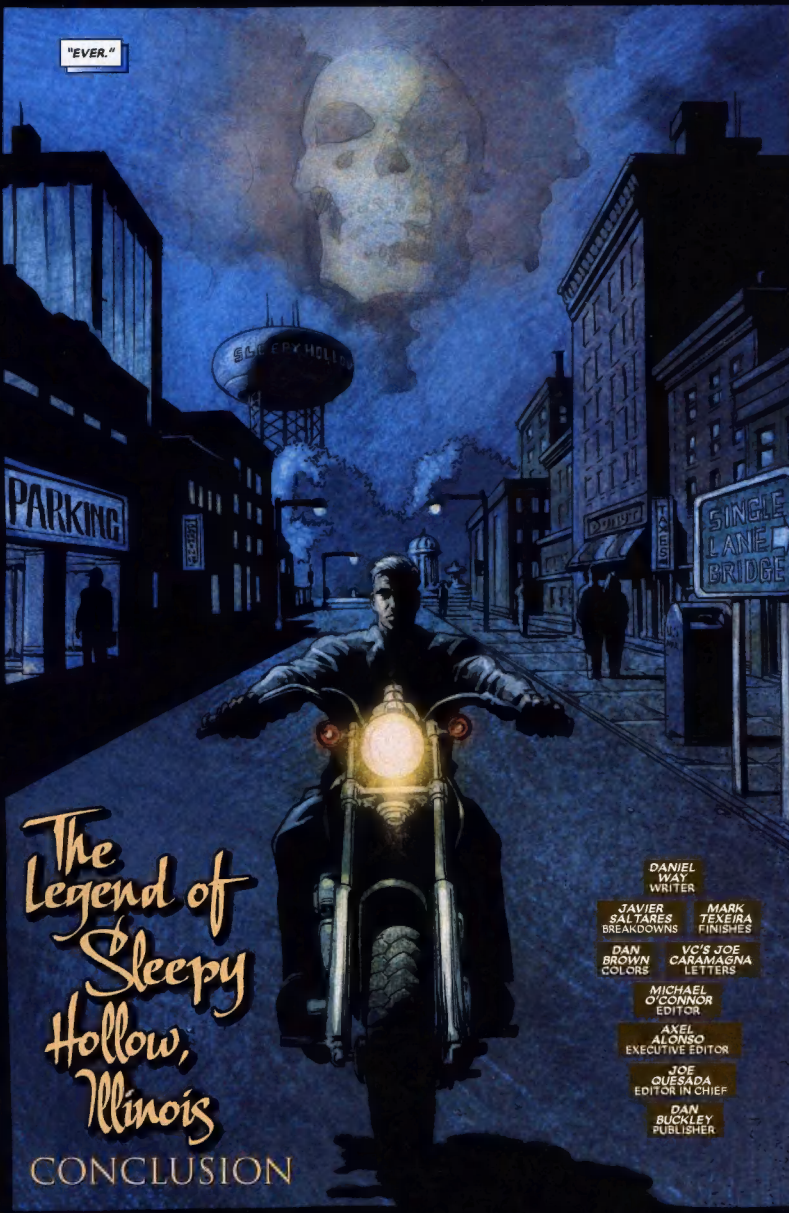
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The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Illinois

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